

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104093 TOSEC 110401

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TU

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL REPLY
TO TURKISH PRIME MINISTER (S/S NO.7608957)

REF: ANKARA 3305

FOR THE SECRETARY FRM SISCO

1. THE PROBLEM.

REFTEL CONTAINS TEXT OF LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT FROM
PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL. DEMIREL EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE
TO US-TURKISH RELATIONS OF THE NEW US-TURKISH DEFENSE
COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND WARNS OF THE "FATAL CONSEQUENCES"
FOR THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP SHOULD THE US CONGRESS RE-
JECT THE AGREEMENT. THERE FOLLOWS A DRAFT REPLY FROM THE
PRESIDENT WHICH WE PROPOSE TO FORWARD TO THE WHITE HOUSE
FOR APPROVAL IF YOU CONCUR. THE DRAFT REPLY EMPHASIZES
THE IMPORTANCE THE US ATTACHES TO US-TURKISH RELATIONS
AND REAFFIRMS OUR INTENTION TO TRY TO GET THE AGREEMENT
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THROUGH CONGRESS AT AN EARLY DATE.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 25 IN WHICH YOU PERSUASIVELY CITED THE IMPORTANCE TO TURKISH, U.S. AND NATO SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT, AND OF THE SET-BACK YOU FORESEE FOR THOSE INTERESTS, AND PARTICULARLY FOR US-TURKISH TIES, SHOULD THE AGREEMENT FAIL TO OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF THE U.S. CONGRESS.

YOU AND I ARE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF US-TURKISH DEFENSE TIES TO THE SECURITY OF OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND TO THE SECURITY OF THE BROADER NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. IT IS BECAUSE I VALUE SO HIGHLY A RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS SERVED BOTH OUR COUNTRIES WELL FOR NEARLY THREE DECADES THAT MY ADMINISTRATION HAS WORKED CEASELESSLY TO RECONSTITUTE AND STRENGTHEN OUR CLOSE TIES. AS I EXPLAINED TO FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL WHEN HE VISITED US LAST MONTH, I AM AS CONVINCED TODAY AS EVER THAT IT IS MANIFESTLY IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, AND OF THE WEST, THAT OUR BILATERAL TIES BE RESTORED THAT IS THE SPIRIT WHICH ANIMATED THE U.S., AND QUITE CLEARLY YOUR SIDE AS WELL, IN THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS WHICH CULMINATED IN THE SIGNING OF THE NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND SECRETARY KISSINGER ON MARCH 26. I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S SUCCESSFUL VISIT HERE MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE RESTORATION OF OUR RELATIONS TO THEIR FORMER STATE.

I AM ASKING CONGRESS FOR ITS EXPEDITIOUS APPROVAL OF THE NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT. IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WE HAVE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS AGREEMENT AND THE DELETERIOUS CONSEQUENCES WE FORESEE FOR THE SECURITY SITUATION ON THE SOUTHEASTERN FLANK OF NATO IF IT IS NOT APPROVED. I THINK IT IS CLEAR THAT A MAJORITY IN CONGRESS WOULD

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LIKE TO SEE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP FULLY RESTORED. AS YOU KNOW, THE CONGRESS BELIEVES EQUALLY STRONGLY THAT EARLY MOVEMENT TOWARD A CYPRUS SOLUTION IS IMPERATIVE. IT WILL BE THE TASK OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND OF CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS WHO VIEW THE MATTER IN THIS SAME PERSPECTIVE TO SEE TO IT THAT THESE BROADLY HELD SENTIMENTS DO NOT COME INTO CONFLICT AND THAT CONGRESS MOVES TO APPROVE THE US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

SINCE WE SHARE THESE SAME GOALS, I KNOW YOU WILL WISH
TO JOIN US IN DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING OUR
EFFORTS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. SINCERELY, GERALD R.
FORD. END TEXT.

3. RECOMMENDATION.

THAT YOU APPROVE OUR FORWARDING TO THE WHITE HOUSE THE
FOREGOING DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL REPLY TO DEMIREL.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

4. DRAFTED: EUR/SE:HEKIRBY. CLEARANCES: EUR/SE:WLEAGLETON
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